

## What to do if you are stranded:

- ☐ Stay in vehicle for shelter. Don't try to walk to the nearest town or house (especially in a storm). It is better to conserve body heat and keep dry.
- ☐ Avoid over-exertion and keep calm. Raise the hood to signal for help.
- ☐ Use engine and heater sparingly. Keep a little fresh air coming into vehicle through an open window. It is better to be chilly and awake than warm and unconscious.
- ☐ If you are pushing or shoveling, remember that wet or moist clothing will lose its insulation value.
- ☐ Use a cell phone if you have one.
- ☐ If you must leave the vehicle, write a note giving your name, address, person to contact, time, day you left and which direction you are walking.
- ☐ Avoid any alcoholic beverages. They may feel warm but actually depress the central nervous system and circulatory system.

### Check Travel Conditions Before Leaving Home

#### Weather Reports

**National Weather Service**  
[www.wrh.noaa.gov/slc](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/slc)

#### Road Conditions

**Utah Commuter Link**  
[www.commuterlink.utah.gov](http://www.commuterlink.utah.gov)  
 1-866-511-UTAH (8824)  
 or dial 511

#### Ski Conditions

**Ski Utah**  
[www.skiutah.com](http://www.skiutah.com)  
 1-800-200-1160

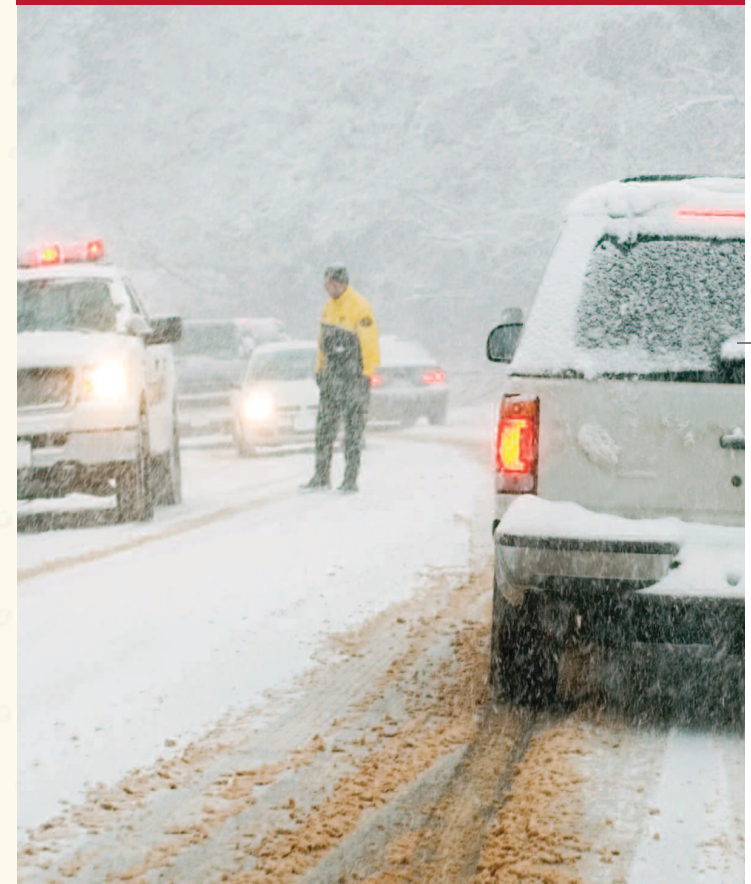
## Driving Skills Needed

- ☐ Get in the right frame of mind, never drive when you are upset or rushed. Don't be distracted. Lack of attention is a major contributing factor to auto crashes.
- ☐ Steer cautiously and smoothly. Avoid abrupt turning, braking or accelerating. Know what to do in a skid.
- ☐ Keep extra distance from traffic ahead. Anticipate needs in advance.
- ☐ Anti-Lock brakes are designed to prevent wheels from locking during panic braking. You might feel the brake pedal pulse back but this is normal. Just hold the pedal down and steer. If you pump the pedal, this prevents them from operating correctly.
- ☐ Slow Down. Drive slower than the posted speed especially in inclement weather conditions to avoid hydroplaning or when visibility is limited.
- ☐ If visibility is so limited you can't see the edges of the road or other vehicles at a safe distance, it's time to pull off the road and wait. Stop only at a rest area or exit the freeway and go to a public area. If the roadside is your only option, pull off as far as you can, turn off your lights, and turn on your emergency flashers to alert other drivers.

# Winter Checklist

**FOR**

## Safe Driving In Utah



### UTAH DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE

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 ph. (801) 957-8570 • Fax (801) 957-8588  
[www.highwaysafety.utah.gov](http://www.highwaysafety.utah.gov)



**State of Utah**

**Department Of Public Safety**

# Safe driving during the winter months in Utah requires preparation and training.

**Start with a vehicle that's ready for the rigors of Utah's harsh winter season. Use the following check list to make sure that you have everything covered prior to winter:**

## ☐ **Battery**

Cold weather places heavy demands on the battery. Recharge/replace older batteries, check age date. Clean battery posts and cables, check voltage regulator and alternator.

## ☐ **Heating/Cooling System**

Check radiator and hoses for cracks/leaks. Flush radiator at least every two years. Test defrosters and blowers so air circulates properly and are available to keep windows clear. Antifreeze to -25 F, should also be used.

## ☐ **Tires**

Traction is the key to good turning and stopping on wet or icy surfaces. All-weather, snow or studded tires should be used from October 15 through March 31 in Utah. Make sure tires are properly inflated to maximum pressure recommended in the owner's manual. Carry properly fitted tire chains and know how to install them, if necessary. Never mix radial tires with other tire types.

## ☐ **Windshield Wipers and Washer Fluid**

Wipers should be clean and in good condition. Blades that streak or smear should be replaced. Fill the washer reservoir with windshield cleaner/solvent that won't freeze.

## ☐ **Other Concerns**

Check ignition wires, spark plugs and make sure engine is tuned. Use light or multi-weight oil. Check brakes for proper operation, any unusual grinding or squealing should be repaired. Check all head and tail-lights and turn signals and replace any bulbs where necessary. Make sure emergency flashers operate.

## ☐ **Parking On Public Streets**

Check local cities for parking restrictions during winter months.

## ☐ **Emergency Kit**

Keep these items in your vehicle's trunk in case of an emergency:

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Traction mats or small bag of abrasive material (sand, salt, or cat litter)
- Small shovel
- Basic tools
- Jack and lug wrench, and booster cables.
- Also useful is a tow rope, cable or chain.
- Blanket or sleeping bag.
- Winter clothing, extra pair of boots or shoes.
- First aid kit.
- Winter survival kit: candles, canned heat, matches, pocket knife, can opener, toilet paper, dehydrated food.
- Warning devices such as flares or triangles.

# Preparing for your Trip

## ☐ **Check all road conditions and weather forecast.**

Allow extra time for poor driving conditions. Drive well-rested, alert and sober at all times.

## ☐ **Don't travel alone if possible.**

Always tell someone where you are going, what route you will be taking, and report when you arrive.

## ☐ **Adjust your seat.**

Adjust your seat to a comfortable distance from the steering wheel (no closer than 10 inches). Make sure all mirrors are adjusted properly.

## ☐ **Seat belts fastened.**

## ☐ **Turn lights on.**

Remember to turn lights on at dusk, and in rain, snow and fog.

## ☐ **Keep windows clean and clear.**

Brush/scrape snow and ice from windows and lights.

## ☐ **Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area such as a garage.**

